

Mass Media Act (2006) (excerpts)

(...)

(1) Information for the media under this Act is information provided by an authority at its own initiative to the media and information given by an authority to the media as a reply to a question and concerning the working domain of the relevant authority. Information must be authentic and comprehensive.

(2) The media can require information from all authorities defined as liable by the law regulating the access to information of public nature.

(3) Authorities overseeing the provision of information to the media shall appoint the person in charge of the implementation of the provisions of this Act and publish his/her name and official phone number and e-mail. The authorities shall provide information about the person in charge to the competent ministry.

(4) After the receipt of a written question the reply to which will be partially or wholly rejected by an authority, this authority must inform the media accordingly by the end of the working day following the receipt of the question.

(5) An authority may partially or wholly reject the reply to a question of the media if no free access is granted to the required information under the law governing the access to information of public nature.

(6) Authorities must provide the media with a reply to a question within seven working days from the receipt of the written question at the latest.

(7) The written notification under paragraph 4 or the reply under paragraph 6 hereof shall contain the name of the media that posed the question, the wording of the question and the decision on the partial or whole rejection of the reply to the question. The media can require additional clarifications within three days from the receipt of the reply. The authority must provide such clarifications without delay and no later than three days from the receipt of the request for additional clarifications.

(8) The whole or partial rejection of a reply under paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be considered a decision of refusal.

(9) Appeal against the decision of refusal under the preceding paragraph shall only be permissible if the partial or whole rejection of the reply to a question derives from a document, matter, file, register, records or other documentary material.

(10) The appeal against the decision under paragraph 8 must be filed in writing; the decision on the appeal shall be taken by the authority competent for deciding on the appeal under provisions of the law governing the access to information of public nature. The relevant authority must abide by the decision issued on the basis of an appeal without delay or within five days after it was served the decision.

(11) If press information is published in the media in whole and literally, the author of the contribution and the editor shall not be held liable for damages or criminally liable for accurately publishing the contents of public information. The authority providing such information shall be responsible for its authenticity and accuracy.

(12) The control over the implementation of this Article shall be a responsibility of the authority authorised for deciding on the appeal under provisions of the law governing the access to information of public nature.

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